THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes Sir, the Government intends to pursue a dialogue with all groups and with different shades of opinion in Jammu & Kashmir on a sustained basis, in consultation with the democratically elected State Government. The Government is also committed to peaceful settlement of al bilateral issues with Pakistan.

(b) to (d) The Government already had two rounds of talks with the Hurriyat then headed by Maulana Abbas Ansari and further talks would be held with the Hurriyat and other groups in the State which come forward for talks, on dates convenient to them, in consultation with the democratically elected State Government.

Abrogation of POTA

339. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of reports about misuse of POTA by different State Governments, Government have examined the desirability of abrogating this Act;

(b) if so, what decision has since been taken in the matter; and

(c) what line of action in this regard has been incorporated in the Common Minimum Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government has initiated action in the matter of repeal of POTA.

(c) The Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) lays down that "the UPA has been concerned with the manner in which POTA has been grossly misused in the past two years. There will be no compromise in the fight against terrorism. But given the abuse of POTA that has taken place, the UPA Government will repeal it, while existing laws are enforced strictly."

Responsibility of internal security to CRPF

†340 SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of handing over the responsibility of complete

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

internal security of the country to Central Reserve Police Force has been postponed in some of the States for now;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the phase-wise progress of the this scheme so far, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the whole process and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The responsibility of maintenacne of law and order and internal security lies with the State Governments. Central Police Forces are provided to assist State Governments for discharging these responsibilities. The main Central Police Force raised for such duties is CRPF. In addition Assam Rifles and Rashtriya Rifles, under Army's operational control, are also responsible for internal security. Government approved augmentation of the forces in a phased manner over a period of five years commencing from 2000-01. The raisings for the first four years have been sanctioned and some units have been raised. With deployment of these newly raised units, some units of the border guarding forces have been reverted to their primary role. Keeping in view the operational exigencies, some replacement planned earlier, has been temporarily stayed. It is not in public interest to indicate further details.

(c) and (d) With the augmentation of CRPF in a phased manner and if the security situation remains as assessed at the time of sanction of new battalions, it should be possible to complete the replacement as and when the additional battalions of the force are available for deployment. It is not possible to indicate the exact time frame for the completion of the process at this stage.

Initiative to solve Ayodhya dispute

†341. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiative has been taken by Government to solve the Ayodhya dispute in Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to organise around table conference of Hindus, Muslims, State Government, jurists and religious leaders and if so, by when the said conference will be organised; and

(c) whether Government of India are taking any initiative for disposal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.